

Message Text

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TAGS: PINE, EAIR, CA

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADS QUEBEC CLSOING OF RANKS

BEHIND GENS DE L'AIR.

REF: QUEBEC T-162

1. QUEBEC'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION JUNE 30 SUPPORTING RIGHT OF QUEBEC'S GENS DE L'AIR IN CURRENT AIR CONTROL CONTROVERSY. ALL 81 MEMBERS PRESENT - INCLUDING ALL OPPOSITION AND ANGLOPHONE DEPUTIES - UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED GOC "CONCESSIONS" TO ANGLOPHONE AIR CONTROLLER AND PILOT PRESSURES. FERNAND LALONDE, QUEBEC SOLICITOR-GENERAL AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR QUEBEC'S LANGUAGE POLICY, SPOKE OUT DURING SPECIAL DEBATE TO DENOUNCE "THE INEXPLICABLE GYMNASTICS OF GOC WHICH EITHER MASKES UNBELIEVABLE NAIVENESS OR COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE MANUEVERING." HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THOSE WHO MADE DECISION KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN QUEBEC. LULONDE LATER ANNOUNCED THAT GOQ WILLGIVE FINAFICIAL SUPPORT TO GENS DE L AIR. GOVERNMENT WAS JOINED BY OPPOSITION PARTI QUEBECOIS WHOSE SPOKESMAN, MARCEL LEGER, APPEALED TO DIGNITY OF EACH QUEBECOIS TO CONDEMN ALL DELAY IN INSTALLING BILINGUAL AIR CONTROL IN QUEBEC AIRPORTS. THE ASSEMBLY IGNORED ITS OWN RULES TO PASS IMMEDIATELY AN EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION - SPON-
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SORED BY LALONDE AND LEGER - OF SUPPORT FOR QUEBEC S AIR

CONTROLLERS AND PILOTS. NOTED PROVINCIAL ANGLOPHONE DEPUTIES SUCH AS CIACIA, GOLDBLOOM, BLANK, AND SEGUIN SPOKE OUT VIGOROUSLY ON NECESSITY TO RECOGNIZE BILINGUALISM IN ORDER TO SAVE CANADIAN UNITY. UNDERSTAND ENGLISH SERVICE OF CBC DECLINED CARRY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THESE SPEECHES SENT THEM BY THEIR QUEBEC CORRESPONDANT.

2. IN SPECIAL ONE-HOUR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE, LIBERAL DEPUTIES, INCLUDING GOQ CABINET MEMBERS, GAVE OPINION THAT FUTURE OF CANADA WAS AT STAKE. PQ DEPUTIES SAW CONFLICT AS PROOF THAT QUEBEC WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF MAKING FRENCH RESPECTED EVEN ON ITS OWN TERRITORY UNTIL IT IS SOVEREIGN. PQ ALSO MINIMIZED IMPORTANCE OF FRENCH POWER IN OTTAWA. ANGLOPHONES SPOKE PARTIALLY IN ENGLISH - RARELY USED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - TO EXPLAIN TO COMPATRIOTS ACROSS CANADA THAT FAILURE TO COMPREHEND QUEBEC S MOOD COULD LEAD TO BLOW-UP OF CANADA. FIVE LIBERAL BACKBENCHERS WENT BEYOND THE DEBATE TO SEND TELEGRAM TO OTTAWA DEMANDING RESIGNATION OF TRANSPORT MINISTER LANG WHO NEGOTIATED ENTENTE WITH ANGLOPHONE CONTROLLERS.

3. ASSEMBLY MOVE CAME AFTER DENUNCIATION OF LANG S ENTENTE BY QUEBEC SUPERIOR COURT CHIEF JUSTICE JULES DESCHENES WHO IS CONTESTING MANDATE RECEIVED BY 3-MAN COMMISSION AND WAS FOLLOWED BY RESIGNATION OF JEAN MARCHAND FROM TRUDEAU CABINET IN OTTAWA. THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE QUEBEC SECTION OF LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - DALIA WOOD - ALSO JOINED PROTESTS AGAINST LANG S ENTENTE. PREMIER BOURASSA CALLED MARCHAND S RESIGNATION LOGICAL SINCE HE HAD GONE TO OTTAWA TO SUPPORT THE POLICY OF BILINGUALISM. EVENTS OF LAST SEVERAL DAYS, BOURASSA ADDED, HAVE SHOWN WISDOM OF GOQ POLICY OF SEEKING CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY FOR QUEBEC AS QUEBECKERS CAN NOT DEPEND ON OTTAWA. MOST QUEBECOIS FEEL THAT MARCHAND S RESIGNATION IS A VERY SERIOUS STEP DEMONSTRATING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS HAS REACHED AN EXCEPTIONAL INTENSITY. MANY ARE NOW WONDERING WHAT RECOURSE - IF ANY - IS LEFT TO LIBERAL MP S LIKE SERGE JOYAL AND PIERRE DE BANE WHO HAVE LED FIGHT FOR BILINGUALISM IN AIR. FEW, THINK THAT THEY WILL RESIGN FROM LIBERAL CAUCUS AS THERE IS NO WHERE ELSE TO GO.

4. QUEBEC S GENS DE L AIR BEGAN JULY 1 "WORKING TO RULE". THIS ACTION WILL BE AIMED AT AIR CANADA, CP AIR AND FOREIGN AIRLINES WHICH SUPPORTED ANGLOPHONE STRIKE LAST WEEK.

5. COMMENT: SPECIAL VOTE IN QUEBEC S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH SOME HAVE QUALIFIED AS HISTORIC, REACHED AN EMOTIONAL LEVEL RARELY SEEN IN THIS USUALLY PHLEGMATIC CHAMBER. IMPETUS FOR SPECIAL DEBATE CAME FROM PQ DEPUTY LEGER AND CABINET DECIDED TO GO ALONG ONLY AFTER LONG HESITATION. ASSEMBLY AGRUED WITH LALONDE THAT AIR CONTROL IS LIMITED PROBLEM BUT ASSUMES GREAT IMPORTANCE AS SYMBOL OF QUEBECOIS NATIONAL PRIDE. NO OTHER ISSUE IN RECENT TIMES HAS UNITED USUALLY DISPERATE ELEMENTS IN THIS SOCIETY. PERHAPS PASSIONS WILL COOL WITH PASSAGE OF TIME,

BUT POPULAR EMOTIVE LEVEL IS NOW EXTRAORDINARYLY HIGH AND WIDE-
SPREAD.
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